Jim, 1/19/73

Had to write Larry and asked about body identification.

Your KPFA 1/14 transcript: sending the Times story. Very good piece. A couple of questionable areas of no great importance. I take it that the Times did not invest a couple of months and all the interviews you will read about for two pieces. With St. George the would-be dragon and Turner about to enter the filed, I hope not.

I was not aware that St. George got the Che diaries. I thought the Bolivian cabinet member who turned against the CIA's domination got it to Grove. If there was a St. George one, as Hersh says, I think St. George may have replaced Hunt. It has to serve CIA interests. I don't have the next day's piece. Maybe you do. And Ian didn't get the two Newsdays?

A careful reading of this piece will limn the judge

Your 1/14 re my 1/4 on Gehlen, Schurmann, I suppose I did misread them from what I heard, not knowing their past positions, and probably for the reasons you gave. Makes me feel better, too. JFK did many things that ranged from not good to very bad, but he grew and changed, and I regard the revisionism that has set in as of evil intent by some and as counter-productive by others, esp. the left. Of course it makes a big difference to know your audience and know what it knows, and know you don't have to begin with a primer. What a joy that is to the speaker!

We'll never know, but I suspect that while JFK may have been delighted that Diem was gone, it shook him up. He could have gotten rid of him any time he really wanted to and knew it.

Your case for the French mission bombing is persuasive. The Swedish accounts aired on TV leave little doubt about deliberateness. It is a turning point. I think both of the options may be true: Navy signal and Nixon's not intending to sign the agreement. Remember what we then thought of Henry's embarrassed dry cough? And his emphasis on the President's orders, desires, etc.? He is the kind of humanitarian who could have gone for the whole deal as a good step before total withdrawal on the nption that if it could not be a pivotal factor it could impede NVN's future development and capabilities, including military.

You make a good case for the Navy being more political. I hadn't thought of it. There was a certain amount of this under the Nazis (like Canaris). I wonder how generally true this is. I guess whatbthe Army does is more indoctrination, laying down the line to be believed rather than a political case.

Two pp. letter 1/14. I'll listen with interest to the other side of the Larry tape. Most of what Larry said did appear in the papers, but despite his intention of saying nothingg, his police man did. As on how much worse than most Dorothy Hunt was burned, of which I've reminded him re STM's flash of brilliant simplicity. As you'll see from a little slip, I've also asked him if he can do anything with the notion that there was another laundry in Chicago, for Cubans and $100 bills. (The arrogance of those $900,000 bastards, not to take decent care of their to-be-jailed finks!)

You have a system and orderliness I envy. We can't have it for several reasons. One is that in the past I had too damned much to do just to retype what I wrote. She could not and should not have kep the hours I kept. Until long after we moved here I didn't average four hours' sleep. They when she went to work for Block, and had to take refresher courses yearly, it was not possible for her to do this. Also, I'd put stuff away filed as I expected to use it. So, we soon enough manufactured a self-perpetuating chaos. Years ago I sued to paste things up. In the 30s, where there was a topic of special interest, like HUAC for the planned book, I'd even use notebooks.

If to what I've printed you add the retyping for offset of some 400 legal-sized pages of Post Mortem, 600 of COUP, all the indexes, and in the earlier days, handling of orders and billings, you can get a slight notion of the amount of work she did. My notes for WW were about 250,000 words. She typed them all from tapes. So, your effeciency is not possible for us, alas. We sure could use it!

The holding file is a good idea, but despite five acres, I'm so pressed for space that finding some for another box means taking it out of the living room. There isnot even space atop a file cabinet. I do use boxes, and I've now got an overflow of files in the basement, generally older ones ar more or less dead ones. I've even got boxes of stuff I've not been able to unpack since we moved here. Even some of the file cabinets in the office are not easy to get to. I've got nine different cabinets in a room that can't be more than 9x12 and in which a desk, table and typewriter are indispensible. It also holds the copier and a small armchair that hasn't been sat on in about three years. Even boxes on that. However, most of the stuff is where I can find it. My real probalems are misfiling, including by others, and remembering where filed when there is multiple choice. I can lay my hands on more than 2,000 pages of as-yet unread FBI reports, for example, right away. And most of the CD's I've got inventoried by numbers, with cards telling me where each is filed. One of the reasons all the others havenot been read. I have to card.

When I was away in the past Lil did something like what you do, clipping daily and keeping in a separate box for me to go over when I could. She did it by subject.

My memory is no longer like STM's, so I can't retrieve as she does. It would have been great if we could have continued as we did with the first book, when Lil knew where everything was. It was particularly helpful when I was in the throes. I could keep writing while she got what I'd needed, and I could then go back to it. This avoided breaks in thought and productivity. As the work probably shows, I donot take time for outlines. I outline in my mind and they ream it out, too fast.

You use a magic word I can't. My shibboleth is "discarding". I'd have to go through all the files to be able to, and can't.

Where you get into what I call the new Authoritarianism, I do hope you are right. My fear is that these technicians are already past the point you describe. Up to the re-elections I could go along with you ("concern with packaging rather than content"). Consider the distribution of these of dedicated evil throughout the government in key positions; the decimation of the human programs, etc.They'll never get away from the packaging, and theyall still be practising it. But they had enlarged their scope enormously. Here I think I'm probably more pessimistic than you. I'd prefer to be wrong, because if I'm not, it is later than you think. And worse.

When the shrink in your surfaces, I'm fascinated and in complete accord. I ggree GL is not schozo. Is paranoia. And the thing I've not heard discussed but has long fascinated, what you term his narcissism. Watch his face when youmlisten to his words. He is always saying how great and unique he is, and the more he tries to disguise it, the more it shows. (Remember Henry?) I'd go farthur and say he is aware that he is at most a mediocrity whose genius it is not to be contaminated by the corruption of what is good and that he knows it. Thus the copying, because he is incapable of better. Thus the self-advertising (and the practitioners around him), which he also requires to tell himself he is the big engine what will. Your specification of detail is <u>precisely</u> in point. He has the ego o f an absolute nobody who by lack of inhibition and unfettered crookedness made himself an absolutist somebody, and that is what shows, as with all authoritarianism. When he has a sample human feeling, that also is contrived. He is normally incapable of it. I've know good friends of his, or so they thought, until he had gotten from them all he thought possible. Those who have given him thoughtful gifts never even acknowledged when he saw them regularly.I was probably not the first to call hiKing Richard. I meant as he conceives himself. I note in today's Times that a rabbi will make it official tomorrow. Judenrat! If the holy bastard isn't a kid or a Proxmire he can't do it without violating his basic belief and riding on the sabbath.Such is the New Principle. Zielger says he'll be holding more press conferences oce. (He has to.) Listen since you don't watch. Here is where seeing helps.

Alsop:I've suggested a step further in what has crossed in the mail. US now wants an informal hinese alliance vs USSR.

First two S-Is on sniper came today. Thanks. May get to read tonight/ Phila cops- and guess you know what THEY are-sent two commissioneds down to see how N.O. best coped. Open ridicule in Phila papers. Suggestion from Cl[illegible]